

Appl.No. 10/799,355  
Amdt.dated August 11, 2005  
Reply to Office action of May 19, 2005

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The examiner contends that the present invention is unpatentable in light of the prior art. The examiner has rejected claims 27-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holmes et al (U.S. 6,113,186). The examiner has also rejected claims 27-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grimshaw (U.S. 3,289,220). The applicant respectfully traverses the examiner's rejections and asserts that the application is not anticipated by the prior art.

The examiner has rejected claims 27-34 as being anticipated by Holmes. The prior art by Holmes teaches an oval tubing disposed inside a sling fabric. The tubing is joined on the sides by stretchers. The connection between the stretchers and the tubing includes inserts within the tubing and sockets outside the tubing that are joined together by bolts that extend through holes in the sockets and screwed into threaded holes in the inserts to effectively eliminate bending moments on the bolts. The present invention has frame member 215 with a slot 214 to receive the connection means 211 of a runner 207. A folded portion 206 of the sling 201 is attached to the runner 207, the connection means 211 is inserted into the slot 214 and the sling 201 is tightened by rotating tightening means 234. The present invention is unlike the prior art taught by Holmes because the sling does not wrap around the frame member and because the tightening means do not pass through the sling. In the prior art taught by Holmes is different than the present invention because in the prior art the sling wraps around the whole frame member where in the present invention the sling is adhered to the runner and the runner is

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attached to the frame. Also the prior art is different than the present invention because the prior art taught by Holmes has the tightening means which passes through the material which makes up the sling where the present invention does not have the tightening means pass through the sling. There are significant structural differences between the prior art taught by Holmes and the present invention, thus the present invention is not anticipated by the prior art.

The examiner has rejected claims 27-34 as being anticipated by Grimshaw. The prior art by Grimshaw teaches a sheet of thermoplastic material having at spaced intervals around its periphery a series of metal reinforced attachment points each of which is capable of receiving an attachment member, the attachment members along at least one side or portion of the sheet consisting of or including an arrangement which can be modified in effective length, whereby the tension in the sheet may, in use, be increased or decreased. The present invention has frame member 215 with a slot 214 to receive the connection means 211 of a runner 207. A folded portion 206 of the sling 201 is attached to the runner 207, the connection means 211 is inserted into the slot 214 and the sling 201 is tightened by rotating tightening means 234. The connection point between the frame and the connection means contact one another continuously down a substantial portion of the length of the frame member. The present invention is unlike the prior art taught by Grimshaw because the prior art has a number of attachment points around the outer perimeter of the sling, where the present invention has a single attachment point, the connection means which runs continuously around the whole perimeter of the sling

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and the frame member. There are significant structural differences between the prior art taught by Grimshaw and the present invention, thus the present invention is not anticipated by the prior art.


Regarding claim 27: The applicant has amended the claim to further distinguish the present invention from the prior art.

Regarding claim 37-44: The applicant has created a new independent claim and a series of dependent claims to more particularly point out and distinguish the present invention from the prior art.

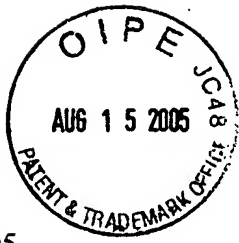
### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, applicant's claims are patentable over the cited prior art and the application should be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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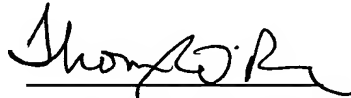
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Response was mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 11 day of August, 2005.

  
Thomas A. O'Rourke